

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 remain in this application. Claims 1, 2, 9, 19 and 24 have been amended. Claims 7 and 28 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicant respectfully requests that the above-identified application be reconsidered in view of the amendments above.

Previous Rejections

It is assumed that claims 1-29 have been previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,275,907 to Baumgartner et al. ("Baumgartner") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,895,484 to Arimilli. At this time, the claims have been amended to focus on one of the embodiments of the specification: the use of a coherence agent to issue a speculative read request that can be processed prior to the results of a coherency protocol are determined. Such a feature is described, for example, at pages 11-13 of the present application.

Such a feature is not described or suggested by the cited references. Baumgartner fails to teach a coherency agent and, as admitted in previous office actions, completing the memory read request before results of the cache coherence protocol are determined.

Arimilli also fails to show this feature. In Arimilli, a read request is snooped from the bus by all processing units coupled to the bus. Each processing unit prepares a coherency response for the snooped request. The processing unit that issues a intervention coherency response, then proceeds to buffer data for the read request. Thus, Arimilli also fails to teach or suggest the coherency agent of the claims to issue the speculative read request.

CONCLUSION

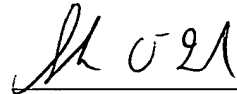
For all the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4255 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,
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By:



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